was made for part acquisition which hag so far not been agreetd to by the Land Acquisition Authority.

Amendnt of Indian Postal Services Act

1992. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Postal Department has recently recommended to Government the amendment of the Indian Postal Act of 1898;

(b) if so, what are the reasons and the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact 'hat there is a bid by the Department of Posts to place crippling constraints on operators of private express services which have grown into a major Rs. 350 crore in-frastructural industry;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether it is a fact that such a move would practically wipe out the Courier industry in the country; and

ff) if not, the reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The Indian Post Office Act 1898 has been reviewed by a committee constituted by the Government. Any new Act to replace the existing Act can be done only after the Government decides on the recommendations of the Committee.

(b) The need of amendment has arisen in the context of the detrelop-ments which have taken place nationally as well as intertationlly since the present Act came into force.

(c) No Sir. At present private eix-press services have no legal authority to carry letters. According to the re-commendations of th© Committee to review the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, the exclusive privilege of the Govern ment to carry letters may be liberalised to enable private express services to carry letters within certain parameters to be laid *down* by the Government.

(d) to (f) Does not arise in view of the reply to (c) above.

Provision of new telephones in the capital

1993. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICA-TIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to provide over four lakh new telephone cormections in the capital in the coming financial year: if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that waiting lists maintained for telephone connections wiU also be clear during the same financial year; and

(c) if so, what are the details in the regard and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Tentative plans have been drawn to provide 4 lakh new telephone connections, in Delhi in the coming financial year. This will make 0YT and Special category waiting list current in 1994 and easy availability of General category telephones in 1995. This is however subject fo timely availability of equipment, financial and other resources.

Improvement of Telecomnuinication Services in Madhya Pradesh

1994. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICA-TIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to improve the Telephone, Posts and Telegraph services in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the reverme earned by Government from the State Government during 1991-92 and 1992-93 has been higher in comparison to other States;

(c) if so, how much amount was spent on these services during the above period in the State;

(d) to what extent the posts, telegraph and telephone services will be improved during 1993-94;